

## “How to Be an Overcomer”

*I John 5:4 – 5*

### Open: 4 Opening Statements

- God gave man a choice, to obey and be blessed or to disobey and suffer the consequences.
  - Man does not get to choose the outcome of his decisions, those are predetermined; he only gets to choose which decision he makes.
- Man, in his sin, chose to follow his own desires and lost the ability to live a life of total obedience to God.
  - When man sinned, he forfeited his right to please God with his life; and became a slave to sin. **Gal. 4:3**
- Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection restored man’s ability to live the original life God had intended for man to live.
  - Christ’s death on the cross not only made salvation possible; but it also gave man the power to overcome sin in his life. **Gal. 2:20**
- Once a person gets saved, they are no longer condemned to suffer eternal punishment for their sin; but they are required to decide between serving the flesh (old nature) or the Spirit (new nature).
  - Do I yield myself and obey what God has told me to do; or do I disobey and selfishly continue to seek the satisfying of my flesh?

### **I. As an overcomer realize you are not to live your life in disobedience to God’s Word.**

- Just because you are saved and will not go to hell, does not give you a right to live any way that you want. **Rom. 6:1-2** *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?[2] God Forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?”*
- a. You need to realize that even though you still have a sin nature, you do not have to live your life in bondage to your sin nature.
  - Why would I trade what has been made available to me, through salvation; for what the world claims they can give me? **Gal. 4:9** *“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”*
  - i. Joy of Salvation – Knowing I have access to God, and I will never suffer the punishment of sin, eternal death in hell.
  - ii. Joy of Forgiveness – Knowing that when I make a mistake, I do not have to live with a guilty conscience.
  - iii. Satisfaction of being a child of God – Knowing that as long as I obey, I will never find myself in want, all of my needs will be met. **Rom. 8:15** *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*

- b. I need to understand that my flesh will naturally seek what the world has to offer; but I must realize everything they have to offer will leave me empty. (How can I get help from those who are in trouble themselves?) **II Peter 2:19-20** *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.[20] For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”*
- i. Look at the outcome of those who serve the flesh. – *“servants of corruption and bondage”*
  - ii. I need to understand just because someone is saved does not mean that I am to copy their lifestyle. – **II Peter 2:20** explains to me the outcome of those who get saved and choose to remain in the world. The Bible tells us that their life ends up worse than before.

## II. As an overcomer recognize you have been given an opportunity for a new and better life.

- When I got saved, I was given a new nature; but I must choose every day to live the new life that has been made available to me. **Rom. 6: 3-4** *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*
- a. Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection not only made salvation possible; but it also made victory over your flesh possible. **Rom. 6: 5-6** *“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection [6] Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*
    - i. Salvation buried our sin nature under the blood of Christ making us not only redeemed; but also justified in the eyes of God. **ILL.** *A seed is planted in dirt and dies; but this death brings forth new life.*
    - ii. The new life that springs up after salvation is the life that we are to live
  - b. We need to understand that with Salvation comes the ability to live a life free from the results of sin.
    - i. We must choose to crucify and to bury our fleshly desire, just like Jesus choose to be crucified and buried for our sins. **Rom. 6:7** *“For he that is dead is freed from sin.”*
    - ii. If death has no more dominion over Jesus Christ **Rom. 6:9b**, then we also are not under the dominion of sin. **Rom. 6: 11** *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
    - iii. We should realize that even though we are living in a sinful body; by yielding to the new nature, given to us at salvation, we can live the life that God wants us to live and receive the full benefits of living by faith. **Gal. 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

### III. As an overcomer realize the choice is yours: Yield to the Spirit or live in the flesh.

- The choice is yours; no one can make the choice for you. **Rom. 6:12-13** *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. [13] **Neither yield** ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves** unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*
- a. Yielding to the flesh brings defeat and death. **Rom. 6:23** *“For the wages of sin is death...”*
  - i. If the works of your flesh were not good enough to get you saved, then what makes you think the works of your flesh are good enough for satisfaction in life?
  - ii. Look at the results of man’s righteousness. **Rom. 3:10-18** *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: [11] There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. [12] They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. [13] Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: [14] Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: [15] Their feet are swift to shed blood:[16] Destruction and misery are in their ways: [17] And the way of peace have they not known: [18] There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- b. Yielding to the Spirit and obeying God’s Word brings victory and life; while disobedience and following after carnal desires brings death.
  - i. **John 6:63** *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”*
  - ii. **Rom. 8:6** *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*
  - iii. **Gal. 6:8** *“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*
    - **ILL.** Old Indian chief explaining his fight with his sin nature to the missionary. **Rom. 6:16** *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*

#### Close:

- *“You will either serve someone who wants the best for you; or you will serve someone who wants the best from you.... it’s your choice”*
- If faith was enough to get you saved, then why is faith not enough to live by?
- Who are you yielding to? ..... that is the difference between victory or defeat in the Christian life.

### **I John 4:4**

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*